

Bismarck Human Relations Committee Meeting

Date: November 16, 2015 **Location:** City County Building, 221 N. Fifth Street, Bismarck, ND

I. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:16 pm

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Sharon Korsmo, Will Kincaid, Karel Sovak, Rissa Williams, Clint Fuller, Mike Kraemer

Members Absent: Michelle Thomas, Susan Sisk

Guest Present: Gloria David and Dr. Arslan

III. HRC Mission: The mission was read.

IV. Acceptance of Minutes:

Minutes were read and approved unanimously with no corrections or revisions.

V. Public Comment: Dr. Arslan attended the meeting (at the invite of committee member Fuller) and described his journey to Bismarck and his perspective of the community. Dr. Arslan noted that the community has been very welcoming and seems like a great place to raise a family. He is pleased that the community center is now available for services on Friday night, which is attended by 60 to 70 people and they open up the center to the public every other Sunday. When asked what Bismarck and this committee could do to assist with getting over stereotypes, Dr. Arslan indicated to assist in the outreach of the center when offered. Dr. Arslan also indicated the center would love to get a pastor to lead the services. It was suggested the committee look to include Ramadan as a Diversity University event in July (or to coincide with the event). Korsmo suggested that committee members continue to invite people to Bismarck Human Relations Committee meetings to hear from newcomers and others to share and educate the committee. Korsmo also presented educational information on Lutheran Social Services and the refugee resettlement.

VI. Quarterly Commission update: Korsmo will present on the December 8th agenda to update the commission on all activities the committee is involved in.

VII. Diversity University Quarterly:

Members presented potential names for the first Diversity University of 2016. Saul Davis (former Negro League baseball player), Era Bell Thompson founder of Ebony and ND Roughrider award winner), Rosie Savageau (1st Black Miss ND), Satchel Paige (Negro League baseball player), Bobby Harper (African-American living in Leith when Craig Cobb attempted his takeover of that community), Greg Allen (executive at Cavendash Farms in Jamestown), and Rachelle Williams. The North Dakota Heritage Center was contacted by Kincaid on possible dates – with February 7, 14, 21 and 28 open for “Sensational Sundays”. The committee asked Kincaid to secure the 21st and the committee members will look to secure 3 or 4 speakers for that date. Williams will contact Saul Davis’s grandson, and Bobby Harper. Kraemer will contact Greg Allen and Fuller will contact Rosie Savegeau. Members will report back to the full committee at the next meeting in December and put forth further plans at that time.

Karel Sovak will work with the University of Mary students to produce and print the Diversity University brochures.

VIII. Human Rights Essay and Poetry Contest: The committee has conducted this event in the past and agreed that it should proceed with one for 2016. It was moved (Sovak) and seconded (Kincaid) to have Gloria send the information to the schools and set a deadline of January 11th. All submissions will be reviewed by the full committee to determine the winners at the January 25th committee meeting and determine a date at that time to present the award(s). Unanimously approved. Gloria will send the information out to the schools, categories will be 4-5th grade and 6-8th grade for all Bismarck Public Schools, United Tribes and private schools. The committee members will receive all materials so they can spread the word as well.

IX. Other Business: None

X. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, December 21, 2015 at 5:15 p.m. at the City County Building, 221 N. Fifth Street, Bismarck, ND